

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method for formatting a document for presentation on an output device comprising:

interrogating the output device to determine a set of capabilities of the output device in response to a request for the document;

selecting one of a plurality of style sheets based upon the set of capabilities of the output device determined by interrogating the output device; and

formatting the document for presentation on the output device using the selected style sheet.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of Claim 35, wherein a layout generator is used for interrogating the output device to determine the set of capabilities of the output device and selecting one of a plurality of style sheets based upon the set of capabilities of the output device.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of Claim 36, wherein the layout generator is external to the document.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of Claim 36, wherein the layout generator is embedded in the document.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of Claim 35, further comprising:
embedding the selected style sheet in the document.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of Claim 39, wherein embedding the selected style sheet comprises placing a style tag corresponding to the selected style sheet in the document.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of Claim 39, wherein the document includes a plurality of tags and wherein embedding the selected style sheet comprises placing style attributes corresponding to the selected style sheet in the tags of the document.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A method for formatting a document for presentation on an output device comprising:

- selecting a layout generator;
- interrogating the output device to determine a set of capabilities of the output device in response to a request for the document;
- generating a selected style sheet based upon the set of capabilities of the output device determined by interrogating the output device using the layout generator; and
- formatting the document for presentation on the output device using the selected style sheet.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of Claim 42, wherein the layout generator is a general purpose layout generator for use with a plurality of documents.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of Claim 42, wherein the layout generator is designed only for use with the document.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of Claim 42, wherein the selected style sheet is external to the document.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of Claim 42, wherein the selected style sheet is embedded in the document.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of Claim 42, wherein generating a selected style sheet comprises selecting a style definition which defines a format value for a format property, the format value supported by the set of capabilities of the output device.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A method for generating a style sheet used to format a document for presentation on an output device comprising:

selecting a layout generator;

interrogating the output device to determine a set of capabilities of the output device using the layout generator in response to a request for the document; and

based upon the set of capabilities of the output device determined by interrogating the output device, generating a style sheet having a plurality of style definitions for formatting the document for presentation on the output device.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, further comprising:

embedding the generated style sheet in the document.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, wherein the generated style sheet is external to the document.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, wherein generating a style sheet comprises:

selecting a style sheet from a plurality of style sheets.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, wherein each of the style definitions assigns a format value to a format property, and wherein generating a style sheet having a plurality of style definitions comprises generating a plurality of style definitions with format values supported by the set of capabilities of the output device.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of Claim 48, wherein the document is a generalized markup language document.